U.S.-Kuwait Driver's Licenses Research and Reciprocity

VIRTUAL STUDENT FEDERAL SERVICE

VSFS

Project Title	U.S.-Kuwait Driver's Licenses Research and Reciprocity
Project Summary	Explore U.S. state and Kuwait driver's licensing requirements and issuance procedures. Identify recommendations to bring driver's license issuance procedures and standards for private citizens from both countries in line with one another.
Country	Kuwait
Country/Region of Focus	United States

Project Description

Embassy Kuwait seeks two interns. One will examine each U.S. state's policies on recognizing Kuwait's driver's license in order to obtain that state's driver's license. The second intern will review Kuwait's driver examinations and testing policies. Each will present their findings and recommendations for bilateral discussions and potential steps forward to improve mutual recognition of driver's licenses and ease an administrative and financial burden for both countries' citizens.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)
Analytical writing
Political Analysis
Research

Additional Information

Some U.S. states do not recognize Kuwait's driver's licenses as meeting state or international standards. These states require Kuwaiti drivers, whether diplomats or students, to complete the full driver's training, examinations, and road test before issuing a Kuwaiti driver a valid U.S. state driver's license. Some U.S. states

limit the validity of their state driver's license to match the validity of the foreign resident's U.S. visa.

Kuwait improved its driver training and examination requirements in recent years. The Government of Kuwait is looking to identify the steps it must take to obtain U.S. state recognition of its driver licenses. Because some U.S. states do not recognize Kuwait's driver's license, and thus exempt Kuwaitis from the training, examinations, and road test, Kuwait applies the diplomatic principal of reciprocity. Kuwait requires U.S. citizens to pass driver training, the written examination, a vision test, and a road test. Kuwait also limits the validity of its drivers licenses based on the validity of the U.S. citizen's Kuwait resident permit.

The additional testing is a headache for both countries' citizens. With over 14,000 Kuwaiti students in the United States, most need a car to commute to and from undergraduate or graduate studies and their residences. Although already qualified to drive, they spend additional time studying, driving, and taking the examination and road test. Similar to Kuwaiti students' and diplomats' experiences in the United States, many of the more than 40,000 U.S. citizens living and working in Kuwait must take additional time away from work and home to complete Kuwait's driver training, examinations, and road test.

Language Requirements

None